



Copa Sitrep # 4
11/9/07 – 11/15/07

Luckily the weather has been better this week and we had a perfectly calm day for the LM Gould visit, and our small cargo swap went easily and smoothly.

1. Penguins: 98 out of the 100 monitored Adélie penguin pairs had laid at least one egg as of the 15th. Adélie egg measurements were completed at the Point Thomas colonies on 11/11 -- 50 nests with 2 eggs (i.e., complete clutches) are randomly selected and both eggs are weighed & measured. The Adélie penguin nest census was completed at Copa on 11/10 and at Point Thomas on 11/14. The West Slope colony at Point Thomas, previously one of the larger ones there, dropped below 500 nests this year, so was added to the census (colonies above 500 nests are not counted, as it is difficult to get an accurate count). All gentoo Repro Study plots have been set up and eggs are beginning to pop up every where - even without nests in some cases, which is very unusual for gentoos. The first chinstrap penguin eggs were seen at Uchatka on 11/15 and 3 pairs have established nests here at Copa.
2. Skuas: Point Thomas skua territories are now being checked twice a week and our first excursion to Demay & Uchatka turned up only 5 skuas out of 37 territories checked.
3. PTTs: 10 Satellite transmitters were deployed on female Adélie penguins with 1 egg (i.e., between E1 & E2) on 11/5. After laying their 2nd eggs, all departed for their first at-sea foraging trips, while the males remained at the nest, incubating the eggs. As of today, 3 have returned and been recovered. From the data received so far, most of the females are traveling to the middle of the Bransfield Straits, where they remain until heading back to the colony.
4. Giant Petrels: The first giant petrel eggs were seen on 11/8.

Weekly Weather: The last week has brought a few beautiful days to give us a break from the previous month of storms and we've finally been able to keep the decks clean and dry each day. More typical weather has arrived, though and we are experiencing sunny skies and our first high and consistent winds of the season.

End of Sitrep #4

The 2007-08 Copa Field Team
Stefan Kropidlowski - Field Team Leader
Jefferson Hinke
Angie Kaufman
Małgorzata Korczak

